

I just ask that we'd advance this bill. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Pirsch.

SENATOR PIRSCH: I will be brief, because I know we will want to go on. I just want to reiterate that the district nomination and election by district will be more reasonable in cost, it will be more representative for those people. And I passed out a map, which you may have in your file, that the entire county will have better representation. And, quite frankly, I did oppose Senator Chambers in the city elections, and he'll remember that, but my constituents now like district elections by city. They have a councilman that they can call on and that will represent them. In the northwest area of the county, we need that same kind of representative that we can call on. There is no objection by those people in my district to increasing the number, and, indeed, because of the large number of population in Douglas County that is almost imperative. Some have brought up the fact of the 21 counties at large, and I point out to you that 17 of those have populations of 5,000 or less. Douglas County is the most populous county in the state, and requires district elections, and I hope you advance 588. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Labeledz, followed by Senator Withem.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Just a brief remark, Senator Pirsch and Senator Beck both said they believe it will be better representation. Believe me, when we do get this, and we probably will, this will probably pass and Senator Chambers has won again, but I will tell you that when you want better representation and you have a problem in your area, in your district, and you've only got one vote out of seven, that to me is not better representation because you've got six other commissioners that feel if they're going to have a landfill in Senator Pirsch or Senator Beck's district, six county commissioners are going to vote yes to have that landfill there. And yours, yes, will represent you, and they will vote no. But I don't call that good representation. They...the other six will not be accountable to you in any way possible. I've seen it in the district elections, and you will see it in the county board. When you have a problem, yes, you will pick up the phone and your county commissioner will be most happy to talk to you and take your problem and do what he can, and do what is best for you and your district. But there are six other county commissioners that will feel that this has